

wings. Their leader was the legendary Captain Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., who would go on to become the first African-American brigadier general in the U.S. Air Force. His father, Benjamin O. Davis, Sr., was the first Black brigadier general in the U.S. Army.

There were a total of 932 Tuskegee Airmen pilots, and another 10,000 Tuskegee Airmen—and women—who served as mechanics, radio operators, and other essential support positions. They conducted more than 700 bomber escort missions—and they never lost a single lost a single aircraft—not one. They were the only fighter group in World War II with a perfect record of protecting bombers.

White U.S. military pilots were permitted to fly no more than 52 missions during World War II. Some Tuskegee Airman flew as many as 100 missions. Sixty-six Tuskegee Airmen died in combat. Thirty-three were held as prisoners of war.

In March 2007, the Tuskegee Airmen as a group were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest honor Congress can bestow. The ceremony was held in the Rotunda of the Capitol. I will never forget the sight of 300 Tuskegee Airman dressed in red sports jackets, saluting the American flag in that hallowed space. Some were in wheelchairs. But when the National Anthem played, they all rose to their feet and stood straight and proud.

Just before the Congressional Gold Medal ceremony, I had the privilege of hosting several Tuskegee Airmen with Illinois roots in my office. Then-Senator Obama stopped by to pay his respects. It was a historic and humbling moment.

I met Lt. Colonel George Sherman, who grew up in Moline and joined the Army Air Corps in 1944 at the age of 18. He had to take the physical twice; he was rejected the first time because of his buck teeth, but he didn't give up. He ended up serving 22 years in the Air Force.

First Lieutenant Shelby Westbook was born in Arkansas and lost both of his parents when he was just 12. He flew 60 missions over 12 countries in Europe. After the war, he wanted to attend engineering school. The first school he applied to rejected him because it didn't accept Black students. He moved to Chicago, earned a degree, and worked as an electrical engineer for decades.

First Lieutenant Robert Martin famously claimed to have flown "63 and a half missions." On his 64th combat mission, he was shot down over Yugoslavia. He was hidden by antifascist partisans until he could return to his unit. After the war, he worked as an electrical engineer for the city of Chicago for nearly 40 years.

Flight Officer John Lyle—"Captain Jack"—to his friends—grew up on Chicago's South Side. He flew 26 combat missions. After the war, he earned a college degree but couldn't find work in his field so, for a time, he washed

windows of downtown skyscrapers. Eventually, he owned his own insurance agency, a fish and chicken restaurant, and a tree-trimming service.

Lt. Bev Dunjill flew more than 100 combat missions between World War II and the Korean war. He later worked for the Illinois Department of Human Rights.

All of those heroes are gone now. But their valor and impact are not forgotten. The Tuskegee Airmen and the all-Black Montfort Point Marines were among nearly 1 million Black Americans who served in World War II. Most saw the war as a battle on two fronts—one against fascism overseas and the other against racially discriminatory laws and attitudes in America.

Their goal, they said, was "the Double V," victory for democracy overseas and at home. The change at home did not come easily, but it did come. Three years after World War II ended, President Truman ordered an end to segregation in the U.S. Armed Forces. And the service and sacrifice of the Tuskegee Airmen and other Black veterans and leaders helped set the stage for the civil rights movement of the 1950s, 60s, and 70s.

Today, as the last surviving Tuskegee Airman near their 100th birthdays and we lose hundreds of World War II veterans each day, we are painfully aware that the democracy and unity they paid such a high price for is under threat, both overseas and at home. The peace of Europe and democracy itself is under fire from Russia in Ukraine. And our sense of security and national unity seems to be fraying at home. Violence—especially gun violence—threatens us all, even our children.

Our progress against division and discrimination often feels shaky. We are pitted against each other by those who believe that conflict and anger is good for their political interests or their profit sheets. But it doesn't have to be this way.

As we prepare to remember and honor those who gave their lives for our freedom, let us resolve to do our part, in our time, to keep our Nation free and undivided.

NOTICE OF A TIE VOTE UNDER S. RES. 27

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to print the following letter in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC.

To the Secretary of the Senate:

PN1670, the nomination of Nancy G. Abudu, of Georgia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit, having been referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee, with a quorum present, has voted on the nomination as follows—

(1) on the question of reporting the nomination favorably with the recommendation

that the nomination be confirmed, 11 ayes to 11 noes; and

In accordance with section 3, paragraph (1)(A) of S. Res. 27 of the 117th Congress, I hereby give notice that the Committee has not reported the nomination because of a tie vote, and ask that this notice be printed in the Record pursuant to the resolution.

HONORING TED BENDA

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, last April, I came to the floor to honor fallen Iowa State Patrol Sergeant Jim Smith, who was murdered trying to apprehend a violent criminal. Last week, justice was served. His killer was convicted. I thank everyone who worked on this case.

Today, after the completion of National Police Week, it is with a heavy heart that I recognize another Iowa State Patrol officer killed in the line of duty last year in a tragic car accident. State Patrol Trooper Ted Benda was a dedicated servant of the people of Iowa for 16 years.

He began his career in Marquette and later moved to the Iowa State Patrol to serve the communities of Mason City and Oelwein. Trooper Benda was beloved by his colleagues who described him as dedicated. He "fully embraced the call to protect the community."

He put his family first, always lent a hand to friends and neighbors and cherished both his country and his community. Even in death, his service continued. As an organ donor, Trooper Benda continued to save lives. Trooper Benda: We thank you.

Trooper Benda left behind a loving family including his wife, Holly, and his four young daughters: Madilyn, Avery, Vivyan, and Sylvia.

Let me say to them: Your immeasurable sacrifice is honored by your community and your country. We thank you.

Losses like Trooper Benda's remind us of the great dangers that law enforcement officers and first responders face in service to our communities.

Last week, the Judiciary Committee held a Police Week markup. We passed several important measures through our committee that will help the police.

Soon, at my request, the Judiciary Committee will have a hearing on attacks on police. I have and will continue to lead efforts in the Senate to support law enforcement. After all that they have done to protect and serve us, it is the least I can do to protect and serve them.

NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, in 1988, President Ronald Reagan first recognized May as National Foster Care Month.

Each year since then, the month of May has been recognized as a time to bring awareness to youth in foster care.

I thank my colleagues for once again unanimously passing a resolution to recognize the experiences of youth and families in the foster care system and celebrate those who work to improve their lives.

Organizations in Iowa and around the country tirelessly serve kids and families in foster care and the foster parents who open their homes to kids in need.

I salute these organizations and individuals for their year-round efforts to support the kids most in need.

In 2020, there were over 400,000 kids in foster care, including over 4,000 kids in Iowa.

During the pandemic, there was a drop in reports of child abuse, as well as entries into foster care and exits from foster care.

There were the fewest adoptions from foster care since 2016 with 8,000 fewer children being adopted compared to the previous year.

However, Iowa deserves recognition for being one of only nine States to increase adoptions from foster care during 2020.

Permanency for youth in foster care is so important, and I am glad that Iowa continued to make this a priority during the pandemic.

Older youth in foster care and adults who experienced foster care as a child can speak to what worked for them and what didn't work.

These young adults should always have a seat at the table.

When I founded the Senate Caucus on Foster Youth in 2009, the special focus was to hear directly from youth themselves.

Over and over again, I have heard the same thing from kids in foster care: They want a mom and dad. They want a family and a place to call home.

All children, no matter their circumstances, deserve a permanent, loving home and consistent, caring adults in their lives.

We know that just having one caring and consistent adult can meaningfully improve the lives of kids in the long-term.

For some kids, this can be a biological parent who receives the support they need to safely care for their child.

For others, a foster parent, mentor or court-appointed special advocate can be that adult.

My resolution marks May 31 as a particular day to recognize and show appreciation for foster parents.

Congress has worked to expand access to prevention services in the hopes of keeping families out of foster care in the first place.

But in addition to this, it is crucial for foster parents to get the support they need to continue serving kids in their communities.

In Iowa, almost every county has a shortage of trained foster parents who are able to provide a temporary home for kids.

Without volunteer foster parents, kids who cannot remain safely at home

end up sleeping in hotels and in the offices of social workers.

Moving forward, Congress must continue to work to find better solutions and secure better outcomes for youth in foster care.

It is clear that there is no one answer for kids in foster care. Some can be reunified with their families; others are best cared for by adoptive parents or a kinship caregiver.

But the goal should always be the same: to protect kids from neglect and abuse and provide them with love and support.

I thank my colleagues for unanimously passing my resolution honoring May as National Foster Care Month once again and look forward to continuing to work on this issue.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL GENTRY W. BOSWELL

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today, I am honored to recognize the extraordinary service of Brig. Gen. Gentry W. Boswell on the occasion of his retirement. His 31 years of service to our Nation is the reflection of a true and devoted public servant.

General Boswell received his commission in 1991 as a distinguished graduate of the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps at Delta State University, and he also earned a master of aeronautical science at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. In addition, General Boswell studied at the Squadron Officer School, the Air Command and Staff College, the Joint Forces Command Advanced Warfighting School, the Air War College, the Keenan-Flagler Enterprise Leadership School, and the Naval War College. General Boswell's distinguished military career encompassed operational tours flying the B-1B, B-52, RC-135, and E-6B aircraft, and he accumulated more than 4,900 flight hours, including over 500 combat hours in Southwest Asia, the Balkans, and the Horn of Africa.

South Dakotans were fortunate to have General Boswell fulfill five separate military assignments at Ellsworth Air Force Base, serving as assistant director of operations for the 77th Bomb Squadron from 1999 to 2002, director of operations for the 37th Bomb Squadron from 2007 to 2008, commander of the 28th Operations Support Squadron from 2008 to 2010, vice commander of the 28th Bomb Wing from 2012 to 2014, and commander of the 28th Bomb Wing from 2015 to 2017.

During his assignments at Ellsworth AFB, General Boswell developed a culture of putting the airmen first, and he engaged actively in partnerships with civilian leadership in Rapid City and other Black Hills communities to improve the quality of life for those in uniform and their families. In addition, as commander of the 28th Operations Support Squadron, General Boswell was instrumental in advancing the expansion of the Powder River Training Complex. The expanded air space rep-

resents the largest military operations area in the lower 48 States, spanning the skies over North Dakota and South Dakota, Montana, and Wyoming. This expansive training airspace allows Air Force pilots and crews to perform the critical training they need in conditions that closely resemble combat missions.

General Boswell's final assignment for the Air Force was serving as the director of manpower, organization, and resources. He led the management and oversight of the Air Force's manpower enterprise, which encompasses more than 694,000 total force personnel and the programming of more than \$47 billion in annual funding.

General Boswell has received several prestigious awards for his outstanding military service, including the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit with two oakleaf clusters, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with three oakleaf clusters, and the Air Medal with two oakleaf clusters.

We are thrilled that General Boswell has chosen to retire in the Black Hills of South Dakota, where he will have plenty of opportunities to dedicate more time to hunting. I join all South Dakotans in extending our congratulations to General Boswell upon his retirement and for his outstanding military career.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 22-28, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Australia for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$385 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan